

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 11 and 16 to 20 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 to 11, 17 and 18 are rejected and claims 16, 19 and 20 are allowed. By this amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 1 to 11, 17 and 18 without prejudice and added new claims 21 to 25. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and a timely notice of allowance are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 3 and 7 to 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,573,496 in view of Hansen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,284,412). Additionally, the Examiner rejected claims 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin et al. in view of Hansen et al. and further in view of Pinkel (U.S. Patent No. 4,988,619). The Examiner also rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin et al. in view of Hanson et al. and further in view of Kramer (U.S. Patent No. 6,743,634). Finally, the Examiner rejected claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin et al. in view of Hansen et al. and further in view of Hoffman (U.S. Patent No. 5,682,038).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejections. However, to advance prosecution of the remaining claims, Applicants have canceled claims 1 to 11, 17 and 18 without prejudice. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the above rejections have been obviated and respectfully request that the remaining claims, claims 16, 19 and 20 be allowed to issue.

New Claims

Applicants have added new claims 21 to 25 corresponding to original, but now canceled, claims 5, 7, 8, 9 and 11 respectively. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that full support for new claims 21 to 25 is found in the specification and drawings as filed. No new matter has been added. Entry of new claims 21 to 25 is respectfully requested.

All of new claims 21 to 25 depend from allowed claim 19 and by definition contain all of the limitations of allowed claim 19. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 21 to 25 are patentable for the same reasons as claims 19 as well as because of the additional limitations contained therein.

Allowance of new claims 21 to 25 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested. If the present amendments and remarks do not place the application in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned directly if there are any issues that can be resolved by telephone with the Applicants' representative.

A fee of \$120 for a one month extension of time is believed due with this Amendment and Response. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of this fee and any others fees due with this communication to Deposit Account No. 19-2090.

Respectfully Submitted,

SHELDON MAK ROSE & ANDERSON

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By: /Marc Karish/
Marc Karish
Reg. No. 44,816

SHELDON MAK ROSE & ANDERSON
100 Corson Street, Third Floor
Pasadena, California 91103-3842
Telephone (626) 796-4000
Facsimile (626) 795-6321